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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

BOOK OF THE OPENING OF THE RICE INSTITUTE

THERE have been issued from the De Vinne Press three sumptuous volumes commemorating the academic festival held in celebration of the formal opening of the Rice Institute, which occurred on the tenth and twelfth of October, 1912. There has already been given in this journal some account of the institute founded in Houston, Texas, by William R. Rice, and dedicated by him to the advancement of letters, science and art. The volumes which have now been published give a detailed account of the opening of the institute and the text of the inaugural lectures given by distinguished foreign men of science. The volumes are by special permission inscribed to the "thirteenth president of Princeton University and the twenty-eighth president of the United States." The ceremonials which they describe were among the last of international gatherings.

In his dedicatory address, Dr. Edgar O. Lovett, the president of the institute, gives a full account of its foundation and its objects. During his lifetime Mr. Rice gave considerable sums to a board of trustees organized to administer the foundation and made the new foundation his residuary legatee. After a long litigation following his death, the institution was in possession of an estate whose present value is estimated at not less than ten million dollars. The institute secured a campus of 300 acres three miles from the center of the city, and a general architectural plan designed by Mr. R. A. Cram was accepted by the board in the spring of 1910. The Rice Institute plans to be a university of the highest standing, including in its scope science, letters and art. It is said that at the outset art is to be recognized by the architecture and physical setting of the buildings. The teaching and research are divided into three divisions, science, humanity and technology, and it is the aim of the institution to achieve its widest claims to distinction in those regions of inquiry and investigation where the methods of modern science are more directly applicable. There are erected in the building three marble tablets to letters, art and science, the last bearing the profile of Isaac Newton and Job's anticipation of the method of scientific inquiry, "Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee!" On the granite columns of the cloister appear the heads of sixteen leaders, of whom ten are in science. They are: Medicine, Pasteur; Engineering, De Lesseps; Mathematics, Lie; Physics, Kelvin; Chemistry, Mendeleef; Biology, Darwin; Electric Oscillations, Hertz; Aerodynamics, Langley; Radioactivity, Curie; Eugenics, Galton.

The main part of the volumes is taken up by the addresses of twelve distinguished foreign delegates, each of whom gave from one to four lectures. The death of Henri Poincaré prevented his giving the promised lectures on the philosophy of science; a memoir on his life and work was presented by Professor Volterra. Excellent portraits are given of the lecturers, several of which are here reproduced, and tablets were erected in commemoration of their presence at the opening exercises. The inscriptions on the tablets for the seven scientific men are as follows:

Professor Emile Borel, of Paris, France: director of scientific studies at the Ecole Normale Supérieure; Editor-in-chief of *La Revue du Mois;* professor of the theory of functions at the University of Paris; successful in the discharge of exacting duties as admin-

Hugo de Vries

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istrator, educator and editor, his studies in mathematical analysis worthily maintain the standards of scientific work established by the historic line of French analysts extending from Lagrange and Laplace to Hermite and Poincaré.

Professor Hugo de Vries, of Amsterdam, Holland: director of the Hortus Botanicus and professor of the anatomy and physiology of plants in the University of Amsterdam; a careful observer and patient investigator of the phenomena of growth and change in living things, whose studies and experiments of a quarter of a century have resulted in capital contributions to the theories of heredity and the origin of species.

Privy Councilor Professor Wilhelm Ostwald, of Gross-Bothen, Germany: late professor of chemistry in the University of Leipsic; Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 1909; a versatile man of science whose interests and activities range from art through letters into metaphysics, he is justly celebrated as one of the founders of physical chemistry and equally well known as the chief propagandist of a new natural philosophy based on the theories of energetics.

The late Professor Henri Poincaré, of Paris, France: Member of the French Academy; Commander of the Legion of Honor; professor of mathematics and astronomy at the University of Paris; distinguished for discoveries of far-reaching significance in pure mathematics, celestial mechanics and mathematical physics, a varied intellectual activity of extraordinary fertility has secured for him a place of eminence in letters, in science and in philosophy.

Professor Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., of London, England: late professor of chemistry at University College, London; Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, 1904; president of the Seventh International Congress of Applied Chemistry; a facile experimenter of boldness and ingenuity, who has devised new theories and revived outworn ones in a series of remarkable achievements which of themselves constitute an epoch in the history of the chemical elements and a permanent chapter in the annals of science.

Professor Carl Størmer, of Christiania, Norway: Member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences; associate editor of the *Acta Mathematica;* professor of pure mathematics in the University of Christiania; professorial successor of the illustrious Norse geometer, Marius Sophus Lie, and himself a master of the methods of reckoning who has drawn from the equations of mechanics a new theory of terrestrial magnetism revealing new explanations of the lights of the northern skies and kindred manifestations in the solar system.

Professor Vito Volterra, of Rome, Italy: life senator of the Italian Kingdom; dean of the faculty of science and professor of mathematical physics and celestial mechanics in the University of Rome; recently lecturer in the universities of Paris and Stockholm; an analyst of rare skill whose theories have found manifold applications both in pure and in applied science, he has served his country even more directly as an able organizer of educational and scientific undertakings national in scope and international in influence.

IMPORTED AND NATIVE WOODS USED FOR DYE MATERIALS

The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse is investigating the importation and use of foreign dye woods and the recent use of certain native species for dye wood purposes. The college is receiving many inquiries about the use of various woods for dye purposes and the investigation is being carried out to meet these inquiries.

The English blockade of all German exports as a phase of the great war, has prevented the importation of the well-known German aniline dyes. To meet this situation, the importation of foreign dye woods has been greatly stimulated. Along with this use of foreign dye woods is the increased use of the native osage orange for native colors.